



Aruba's Sparkling Tour will showcase talented young Arubans for a second year!

The Sparkling Tour 2006 or "Aruban Idol" is back to show the island and the world some of the incredibly talented young people living in Aruba. Not only do they winners have a chance at a successful career in the island's entertainment industry, but also internationally.

Last year's impressive program introduced the island to the mega talent of Robert Zeeuw, who out-Ushered Usher, and went on to perform on stage with the mega stars of the Soul Beach Music Festival during their Friday night Comedy Fest.

Telearuba hosts Ivo Yanez and Siomara Everon are also back to host the event, and were joined by producer Zahira Zaandam of Telearuba and Shahira Labat, Sales and Marketing Manager of sponsors SETAR, NV to launch the Sparkling Tour 2006 from the studios of Telearuba in Pos Chiquito on Thursday evening. They laid out the regulations and qualifications for those wishing to compete in this year's competition. The Grand Prize of 35,000 Aruban florins, (\$20,000 U.S.) awaits some talented young performer to assist them in furthering their musical career.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 29, 30 and 31 are the days for inscription, when all those wishing to participate must appear from 9:00 A.M to 8:00 P.M. at the Telearuba studios to submit their applications. Applicants will then be informed of a day and time for them to audition, and can arrange when will be best for them, and from there the competitive process will begin.

When applying to participate in the Sparkling Tour 2006 certain regulations must be adhered to:

- Participants must be between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one.
- To compete, you must be a resident of Aruba.
- When submitting an application, persons must bring a valid picture ID; drivers license from Aruba, Netherlands Antilles or Holland, a passport or ID Card.
- Children under eighteen must be accompanied by an adult.
- The Sparkling Tour is for amateur performers only, those that have performed on a professional basis are disqualified.
- When inscribing, applicants will receive a number that they must present at the "audition."
- This year, singers, accompanists, and bands are qualified to compete. There will be no dancing only competition.
- The presentation for the audition is limited to a maximum of five minutes.
- The audition will be conducted in private before a judge.
- Performers must provide their own accompaniment for auditions, whether by instrument or CD.
- Once chosen to compete in the Sparkling Tour 2006, participants are required to participate in ALL events.

Twenty-five performers between the ages of 14 and 21 will be chosen to take part in the Sparkling Tour 2006. Those under 18 years of age must have a written permission to participate from their parent or guardian. The talent shows are scheduled during the months of July and August starting Sunday, July 16. The semi-finals will be broadcast Sunday, July 30 and the finals on Sunday, August 13 at the Aruba Entertainment Center in Dakota; each show will be transmitted live and direct via Telearuba.

The Grand Prize winner will receive the title of "New Youth Star 2006," along with a cash prize and the chance at international fame. The prize is aimed at assisting the talented winner furthering their musical career.

The quality of performers with talent as displayed by last years Sparkling Tour was phenomenal. A panel of judges, many well established musicians and performers were hard put to choose a winner, though Robert Zeeuw's electric performance during the final sing off left little doubt amongst the audience that he would be named the first Sparkling Tour winner. Since then he has launched a musical career. So Telearuba and SETAR, N.V. encourage Aruba's youth to get out there on stage and show the island what you've got!